

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 1           1.     A system for making a live animal appear to talk, the  
2 system comprising:  
3           a first speaker mounted on an article worn by the animal;  
4           a memory for storing pre-recorded phrases;  
5           a selection circuit configured to receive user-supplied inputs;  
6 and  
7           a control circuit responsive to the user-supplied inputs for  
8 selectively outputting the pre-recorded phrases from said memory to  
9 said first speaker thereby making the animal appear to talk.
- 1           2.     The system according to claim 1, wherein the pre-  
2 recorded phrases stored in said memory are based on the  
3 characteristics of the animal.
- 1           3.     The system according to claim 1, further comprising a  
2 second speaker.
- 1           4.     The system according to claim 3, wherein said memory  
2 stores two or more phrases constituting a conversation and said  
3 control circuit is responsive to the user-supplied inputs for supplying  
4 the phrases constituting the conversation to said first and second  
5 speakers.

1           5.     The system according to claim 1, wherein said first  
2 speaker is connected to said control circuit over a wireless  
3 communication link.

1           6.     The system according to claim 1, further comprising:  
2 a sensor,  
3 wherein said control circuit is responsive to a parameter sensed  
4 by said sensor for automatically outputting a pre-recorded phrase  
5 from said memory to said first speaker.

1           7.     The system according to claim 6, wherein said parameter  
2 senses temperature.

1           8.     The system according to claim 1, further comprising:  
2 a timer,  
3 wherein said control circuit is responsive to said timer for  
4 periodically automatically outputting a pre-recorded phrase from said  
5 memory to said first speaker.

1           9.     The system according to claim 1, wherein said selection  
2 <sup>circuit</sup>~~circuit~~ comprises a touch-sensitive display screen.

1           10.    The system according to claim 1, wherein said memory  
2 comprises a portable memory module.

1           11. The system according to claim 1, wherein said memory  
2 is adapted to have its contents updated by connection to a computer.

1           12. A system for making a pet appear to talk, the system  
2 comprising:

3           a leash member for restraining the pet;

4           a collar attached to one of said leash;

5           a speaker mounted on said collar;

6           a control panel including a memory for storing a plurality of  
7 pre-recorded phrases, a selection circuit for receiving user-supplied  
8 inputs and a control circuit responsive to the user-supplied inputs for  
9 selectively outputting the pre-recorded phrases from said memory to  
10 said speaker thereby making the pet appear to talk.

1           13. The system according to claim 12, wherein a handle is  
2 disposed at the other of said leash and said control panel is secured to  
3 said handle.

1           14. The system according to claim 12, wherein said control  
2 panel is connected to said speaker via a wireless link.

1           15. The system according to claim 12, wherein said memory  
2 comprises a portable memory module.

1        18.    The system according to claim 12, further comprising:  
2        a timer,  
3        wherein said control circuit is responsive to said timer for  
4        periodically automatically outputting a pre-recorded phrase from said  
5        memory to said first speaker.

1 19. A method of making an animal appear to talk,  
2 comprising:

3 storing in a memory a plurality of pre-recorded phrases, the  
4 pre-recorded phrases being based on characteristics of the animal;

5 attaching a speaker to the animal;

6 *using a selection circuit configured to receive user supplied inputs to select*  
*selecting* one of the pre-recorded phrases from said memory

7 for output to the speaker, whereby the animal appears to talk.

1 20. The method according to claim <sup>19</sup>~~17~~, further comprising:

2 storing in said memory two or more pre-recorded phrases

3 constituting a conversation;

4 attaching another speaker to another animal; and

5 selecting the phrases constituting the conversation from said

6 memory for output to the speakers, whereby the animals appear to

7 converse with each other.

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